

Message Text

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70

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00

CIEP-02 OMB-01 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 TAR-02 SS-20

NSC-10 L-03 DRC-01 /126 W
----- 077881

O R 251846Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1314

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD ID BL

SUBJ: COTTON CONTRACTS

REFS: (A) STATE 208986; (B) LA PAZ 6431

1. SUB-SECRETARY ZAMORANO OF MININD/COM CALLED ON ECONOFF OCTOBER 25 TO SAY MINISTRY HAD RECEIVED TELEX FROM BOLIVIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON WHICH STATED COOK HAD TAKEN LEGAL ACTION WHICH RESULTED IN JUDICIAL NOTICE BEING DELIVERED TO GASSER AND ROMERO IN WASHINGTON ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 20. ZAMORANO SAID HE COULD NOT DESCRIBE NATURE OF JUDICIAL NOTICE. TELEX ALSO STATED AN AMERICAN LAWYER HAD ADVISED GASSER AND ROMERO TO LEAVE U.S.

2. ZAMORANO SAID THAT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES DID NOT BELIEVE DISCUSSIONS COULD BEGIN ANY SOONER THAN MONDAY, OCTOBER 29. SAID "FIRM BASIS" SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED BEFORE DISCUSSIONS BEGIN, NOTING THAT PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE HERE OF A SUMMONS TO GASSER AND ROMERO WOULD CREATE BAD SITUATION. ZAMORANO SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT GASSER AND ROMERO TO REACH LA PAZ UNTIL SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28. ALSO SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER A SIMILAR SUMMONS MIGHT BE ISSUED TO ANY COOK REPRESENTATIVES.

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3. ECONOFF EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT NATURE OF "JUDICIAL NOTICE" COULD BE SUCH AS TO CAUSE GASSER AND ROMERO TO HURRIEDLY LEAVE U.S., AND STATED THAT ONLY LEGAL ACTION REPORTED TO EMBASSY APPEARED DESIGNED TO BLOCK SALE OF COTTON TO BROWN OR INDONESIAN COMPANY (SEE REF A). SAID HOPED THIS MATTER WOULD NOT DELAY INITIATION TALKS WITH COOK AND ASKED WHETHER MEETING OUTSIDE BOLIVIA MIGHT BE BEST UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES. ZAMORANO SAID MEETING IN THIRD COUNTRY MIGHT BE PREFERABLE BUT COULD NOT ANSWER NOW.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DESCRIBE NATURE OF NOTICE HANDED TO GASSER AND ROMERO, SPECIFICALLY WHETHER THEY SUMMONED TO TESTIFY. AS WE UNDERSTAND GASSER AND ROMERO IN MEXICO CITY NOW (REF B) AND AS JACK BARNETT OF MEXICO CITY TO REPRESENT COOK IN DISCUSSIONS WITH BOLIVIANS, SUGGEST AT LEAST INITIAL PHASE OF DISCUSSIONS MIGHT BEGIN IN MEXICO CITY IF THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY STARTED. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH CHECK WITH COOK ON THIS POSSIBILITY.
STEDMAN

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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